

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04

RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 SAM-01 AID-20 EB-11

COME-00 DOTE-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AGR-20 SWF-02 IGA-02

IO-14 PC-10 DRC-01 /135 W

----- 094249

R 071550Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8461

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

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E O 11652 N A

TAGS: EAID, DM, NG, ML

SUBJ: COTONOU-GAO RAIL/ROAD ROUTE

REF: A. BAMAKO 113, B. NIAMEY 217, C. COTONOU 150 D. BAMAKO 257

1. EMBOFF JUST RETURNED TRIP VI REGION. TRAVELLED ON
GAO-NIGER FRONTIER ROAD AND DISCUSSED SUBJECT WITH
REGIONAL OFFICIALS.

2. ROAD CONDITIONS FOLLOW: GAO-ANSANGO - GOOD TWO LANE
LATERITE SURFACE. ANSANGO-LABEZANGA (NIGER FRONTIER)
VARIABLE ROAD SURFACE. SOME PARTS RECENTLY REPAIRED.
ABOUT TWO-THIRDS LATERITE. REST SAND. MANY PAVED
FORDING POINTS NEED REPAIR. HOWEVER ENTIRE ROAD IS
PASSABLE BY TRAILER TRUCKS. SEVERAL SEEN ON ROAD DURING TRIP.

3. WHILE GOM REGIONAL OFFICIALS ADMITTED FEASIBILITY
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ROAD TO TRANSPORT GRAIN, THEY WERE STRONGLY OPPOSED

USING IT. MAIN ARGUMENT WAS POLITICAL - I.E. GRAIN TRANSPORTED TO VI REGION VIA COTONOU AND NIAMEY WOULD GIVE POPULATION IMPRESSION GRAIN WAS COMING FROM DAHOMEY AND NIGER RATHER THAN MALI (RE PARA 2, REF A). ALSO SAID NIGER GOVERNMENT UNLIKELY GIVE UP ITS SHARE LIMITED CAPACITY COTONOU-PARAKOU RAILROAD TO AID MALI. REGION OFFICIALS ADDED MIN DEF'S PLAN USE MOPTI-GAO ROAD NEGATES NECESSITY USING SUBJECT ROUTE TO FEED VI REGION.

4. COMMENT: GOM OFFICIALS, BOTH IN BAMAKO AND VI REGION, BECOMING MORE VOCAL AND ASSERTIVE IN ARGUMENTS AGAINST SUBJECT ROUTE. BELIEVE POLITICAL ARGUMENT STATED ABOVE IS GENUINE. EVIDENT GOM WILL NOT CONSIDER ROUTE UNLESS IT HAS NO CHOICE. EVEN THEN DOUBT GOM WILL COOPERATE FULLY TO MAKE SUBJECT ROUTE A COMPLETE SUCCESS.

5. RECOMMENDATION: IN VIEW OF SCHEDULE AND TRANSPORT DIFFICULTIES NOTED BY OTHER POSTS (E.G. REFS B AND C) AND GROWING GOM OPPOSITION TO ROUTE, SUGGEST CONCENTRATION OF EFFORT SENDING GRAIN TO VI REGION VIA TWO ROUTES ENDORSED BY GOM MIN DEF I.E. MOPTI-GAO AND SEGOU-NIONO-TOMBOUCTOU. AS RESULT OF RECENT FIELD TRIP EMBASSY OFFICER THINK MIN DEF WILL BE ABLE TRANSPORT 10,000 MT NEEDED BY VI REGION THIS YEAR BY USING THESE TWO ROUTES (PER REF D) IF ENOUGH TRUCKS MADE AVAILABLE TO OPERATION; THUS, CAN STILL AVOID COSTLY AIRLIFT. KUNIHOLM

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Message Attributes

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